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THE  
BROVVNIST  
HÆRESIES CONFVTED

THEIR KNAVERY ANATOMIZED,

and their fleshly spirits painted at full,  
in a true History of one Mistris

*Sarah Miller of Banbury in  
Oxfordshire.*

WHEREIN IS CON-  
TAINED THE PREACHING OF

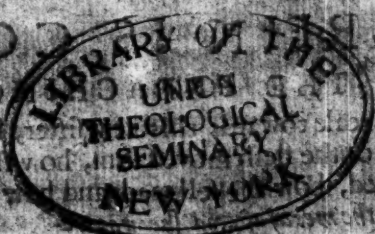
a Barber, his zeale towards this new sister, how the  
the spirit of the flesh moved him, how shee  
granted, how she fell mad, and how  
*by the mercy of God she was re-  
uised of all.*



Printed in the yeare, 1641.

THE  
BROOKLYN  
HARLES CONFIDENT

THEIR KNOWNLY ANATOMICAL  
and their gently turning painted on the  
A large number of the  
in the  
Colorful



OCT 21 1944

Printed in the year 1941

# BROWNIST HERESIES CONFUTED

THEIR KNAVERY ANATOMIZED.

and their fleshly spirits painted at full  
in a true History of one Mistress  
*Sarah Miller of Banbury in*  
*Oxfordshire.*

**T**O discourse of those sundry sects which  
now are sprung up amongst us like so many  
weeds in a pleasant garden is not my intent;  
neither will I unfold their hereticall and erroneous  
opinions in which they daily more and more perse-  
vere, but I have pitched my meditations on such a  
corrupt Sect which is enough to fill the world with  
wonder.

It was in a town called Banbury, in the Countie  
of Oxford, a place alwayes too much encumbered  
with Brownists and Separatists, where dwelt a Gen-  
tleman of a very honest and upright heart, who had  
a daughter about the age of nineteene, she was witty,  
but withall proud, which the devil alwaies inveigled  
her with, that it might prove a cloud to eclipse all  
her other vertues wherewith it had pleased God to  
endue her with.

This Gentlewoman (to the intent she might make her selfe merry) changing her apparell, and disguising her selfe as much as possible she could, went to a place where these Brownists did commonly hold their conventicles, that she might behold and see the manner of their living, and how they were affected in their Religion. Now she having before hand heard of some part of their uses, she met with a Sister of the holy Sect, and saluted her after this manner.

Well met sister, I pray you can you resolve mee what Brother teacheth to day; the holy Sister replied she could not tell, but shee heard that a very honest man, a Chimney-sweeper, was appointed for the same purpose, a man to whom it had pleased God to give abundance of the Spirit, but I heard againe he was dismissed, because he went in blacke like our corrupted Popish Schollers; but will you walke Sister, I perswade my selfe that we shall have a worthy man, because it is Mr. Bryan turne to elect the man for to day.

Together they goe, and this holy Sister conducts this Gentlewoman to a very large stately Barne, where was a very great company met together, where the Teacher for that day being a most Reverend Barber, had placed himselfe in a Seisse, such a thing as men carry Hey or Straw in, where after such postures as they use, (as making changlings faces, stroking the Beard, picking the nostrils, and such like) according as the Spirit moved him, hee began his prayer as followeth;

O God which art our Lord, our Redeemer, our  
Saviour,

Saviour, the very breath of our nostrils, we are now become before thee, we are here present before thee, we kneele before thee to beg, to aske, to crave a gift, a benefite, a blessing from thee; Thou knowest, O Lord, O God, O Christ, that we doe serve thee in all sincerity, in all truth, in all righteousnes, and that we are sincere and true, and righteous, and that wee are hated and persecuted by the Babylonish whore for thy sake, but we are willing to beare all, to undergoe all, to stand to all persecutions to the death. And now, O Lord, O God, O Christ, we are come, met, and kneel heretogther, holy Brothers and holy Sisters, we pray thee, we beseech thee, wee desire thee that thou wouldest so ordaine it that wee may fructifie here among our selves, and not suffer these our holy sisters to defile themselves with the wicked. Now when he had ended a whole houres prayer, repeating the 3. part of it an hundred times, he delivered his Text, which was taken forth of *Samuel*, the words were these, *Is Saul also among the Prophets*, from which he gathered that the people thought that *Saul* had not been inspired by the Spirit, and they held none lawfull to be among the Prophets but those who were inspired by the Spirit, now (dearely beloved Brethren, said he, Holy brothers and Holy sisters attend and marke,) we hold the very point which they did in those dayes, for surely no man is fit for this holy service, but a very devout man, and who is familiar with the Spirit, and for this one reason may we set our selves with all might & main against those Scholars, as Bishops, Deanes, yea and Deacons which strive to construe the Scriptures according to the



of the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, which last Language shewes like a piece of beefe a twelve month old, yet never faired.

Thus he went on as if he had bin mad, infinitely rayling and railing against Learning and Languages, especially that of the Beast. Now when he was about the middle of his discourse (as all thought) turning up the white of his eyes in devotion, hee perceived this strange sister, at whose first gaze the spirit began to move him indeed, but it was that of the flesh, to be brieft, he thought every minute an houre, till he could draw to some end, and so dismiss them, that he might but single out this new holy sister; but hee had gotten him selfe into such a wood of discourse, that it was impossible for him to finde any gap for to escape. At length hee feeling no remedy, hee fell down as if he had swooned, whereupon the Brethren male and female run with all diligence to see what was the matter, which he perceived (like a counter-fair Rascall) rose up and told them he not very well, and so closed all with an extemporie prayer, and they departed.

This cunning teacher our watching which way this Gentlewoman went, made such haste after her that he over-rook her; and she being by her selfe till he came unto her began to court her after this manner.

Holy sister, when I was teaching to day, I espied you amongst the rest, but far more zealous then the rest, lest I was deceived with an outward appearance, and withal I viewing the perfections of body where with you are indued also, it struck me into such a quandarie, that in truth and sinceritie I swooned

as you saw, in the place where I taught: now visibly  
 in love to your zeal where with you do abound, that  
 doth enforce me to sue so you, holy sister, for favor.  
 It seems this was not the first time, that he had loved  
 zeal, he could play the loving Officer so well, but  
 wooed, and she at length granted, being overcome  
 with his entreaties, and the spirit of the flesh speak-  
 ing on his side she granted, & at that time lost more  
 then she could ever gain again with Ganges riches,  
 her maidenhead. I meane, for it was forty weeks  
 after plainly seen as

After she had kept them company about seven or  
 eight dayes, she returned towards home, but with a  
 sad and pensive heart, for what she had done beg-  
 in to prick her to the quick. She had not been at home  
 long, but her father and mother began to take no-  
 tice of this strange alteration in their daughter, yet  
 made as if they did not. But not long after her pen-  
 sive sorrow was turned into mad ricks, for she  
 would fling, and break things, if any one sought to  
 restrain her, she would scratch and bite, and in her  
 madnesse these were all her words, I'm dam'd, I'm  
 dam'd, day and night.

Master Miller (for so was her Father called) took  
 great griefe to see his daughter, whom he loved so  
 intirely, in such strange madnesse, using those words  
 before repeated, which made his very heart bleed,  
 sent his man to Oxford to one Mr. Gill, a reverend  
 Divine his Friend, desiring him that he would take  
 the paines as to come over to him to Banbury: his  
 Man went, did his Message, and without any stay  
 Mr. Gill took horse, and away he went to Banbury,

where

where Mr. Miller after many kinde salutations, again and told him the whole discourse, as you have heard already, as farre as he himselfe knew, and being in her Flits, Mr. Gill desired to see her, and to talke with her, which was most willingly granted, he had no sooner entred the Chamber that he saw her, but she cryed out, I'm dam'd, I'm dam'd, avoid Satan, avoid. Which, Mr. Gill appeased presently with good words, and began to talke to her, and for the space of halfe an houre she heard him quietly, but then she interrupted him, and called for wine, saying, she was dry; all this while, Mr. Gill followed her with good admonitions how to live, and how to gaine heaven, if she would follow it, Shee made him answer, that what he spake was as false as God was true, and having a Venice-glasse in her hand filld with wine, shee threw it to the ground with these words, That it was as impossible for her to be saved, as for that Glasse to re-bounce into her hand unbroken, which contrary to the expectation of all the beholders, the Glasse did. Well, said this Gentlewoman, I will trust in the Lord my Redeemer, and so began to relate the whole story which you have already heard to Mr. Gill and her Father. Reader, this I have published, that you may read and joyce and take heed, and that the Brownist may see their devilish Heresies, and repent.

**F I N I S**

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